

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A semipermeable membrane support comprising, a non-woven fabric consisting of a single layer including main fiber and binder fiber, both of which are formed of synthetic resin fine fiber, the non-woven fabric being manufactured by paper making, heating and pressing,

wherein the non-woven fabric has an air permeability of 0.5 to 7.0 cc/cm²/sec, and an average pore size of 5 to 15 μm, and

wherein the semipermeable membrane support has a ratio of a tensile strength in a paper feeding direction to that in a width direction of 2:1 to 1:1.

2. (Original) A semipermeable membrane support according to claim 1, wherein the main fiber is formed of polyester fiber having an average single fiber fineness of 0.6 to 8.9 decitex.

3. (Original) A semipermeable membrane support according to claim 1, wherein the binder fiber is formed of polyester fiber having an average single fiber fineness of 0.6 to 8.9 decitex.

4-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) A semipermeable membrane support according to claim 1, wherein the semipermeable membrane support has a capability of preventing bending thereof in the width direction during a manufacture of the semipermeable membrane.

7. (Original) A semipermeable membrane support according to claim 6, wherein the semipermeable membrane support has the ratio of the tensile strength in the paper feeding direction to that in the width direction of 1.5 : 1 to 1 : 1.

8. (Original) A semipermeable membrane support according to claim 1, wherein a central line average roughness of a front surface of the semipermeable membrane support is larger than that of a rear surface of the semipermeable membrane support by 15 % or more, and wherein the semipermeable membrane support has an anchor effect to a semipermeable membrane when the semipermeable membrane support is applied with the semipermeable membrane on the front surface thereof.

9. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a semipermeable membrane support comprising the steps of:

preparing a dispersed and mixed solution by dispersing and mixing in a solution main fiber and binder fiber, both of which are formed of polyester fiber having an average single fiber fineness of 0.6 to 8.9 decitex, in a mixing ratio of 20:80 to 70:30;

making paper from the dispersed and mixed solution while controlling a flow rate of the dispersed and mixed solution so that the semipermeable membrane support has a ratio of tensile strength in a paper feeding direction to that in a width direction of 2:1 to 1:1; and

heating and pressing the paper so that the semipermeable membrane support has a surface roughness of a front surface is larger than that of a rear surface by 15 % or more after drying.

10. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a semipermeable membrane support according to claim 9, wherein the step of making paper is performed by using an inclined wire cloth machine.

11. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a semipermeable membrane including a non-woven fabric containing main fiber and binder fiber, both of which are formed of synthetic resin fine fibers having an average single fiber fineness of 0.6 to 8.9 decitex, the non-woven fabric being manufactured by heating and pressing after paper making, said method comprising the steps of:

applying a polymer solution to at least one surface of the semipermeable membrane support which has a ratio of a tensile strength in a paper feeding direction to that in a width direction of 2:1 to 1:1;

roll feeding the semipermeable membrane support to a coagulation and rinsing bath so that the semipermeable membrane support is not bent in a width direction; and

coagulating and rinsing the semipermeable membrane support in the coagulation and rinsing bath.

12. (Currently amended) A semipermeable membrane paper support comprising,

a calendared non-woven fabric consisting of a single layer including main fiber and binder fiber, both of which are formed of synthetic resin fine fiber,

wherein the non-woven fabric has an air permeability of 0.5 to 7.0 cc/cm²/sec, and an average pore size of 5 to 15 μm, and

wherein the semipermeable membrane paper support has a ratio of a tensile strength in a paper feeding direction to that in a width direction of 2:1 to 1:1.

13. (Previously presented) A semipermeable membrane paper support according to claim 12, wherein the main fiber is formed of polyester fiber having an average single fiber fineness of 0.6 to 8.9 decitex.

14. (Previously presented) A semipermeable membrane paper support according to claim 12, wherein the binder fiber is formed of polyester fiber having an average single fiber fineness of 0.6 to 8.9 decitex.

15-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) A semipermeable membrane paper support according to claim 12, wherein the semipermeable membrane paper support has a capability of preventing bending thereof in the width direction during a manufacture of the semipermeable membrane.

18. (Previously presented) A semipermeable membrane paper support according to claim 17, wherein the semipermeable membrane paper support has the ratio of the tensile strength in the paper feeding direction to that in the width direction of 1.5 : 1 to 1 : 1.

19. (Previously presented) A semipermeable membrane paper support according to claim 12, wherein a central line average roughness of a front surface of the semipermeable membrane paper support is larger than that of a rear surface of the semipermeable membrane paper support by 15 % or more, and wherein the semipermeable membrane paper support has an anchor effect to a semipermeable membrane when the semipermeable membrane paper support is applied with the semipermeable membrane on the front surface thereof.